

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1574 without my signature.

If this bill were enacted, the Board of Pharmacy would be authorized to issue a limited pharmaceutical license to a physician-owned surgical clinic without it being licensed by the state Department of Public Health (Department). Licensure by the Department ensures that clinics operate in compliance with state and federal standards and provide patients with quality medical and surgical care. This bill fails to address the larger issue of a recent court ruling prohibiting the Department from issuing licenses to surgical clinics that are partially or wholly-owned by physicians. This bill also fails to enact patient safety standards that have been the subject of two previous vetoes.

I will not support a partial solution to a much larger problem, especially when I have requested a comprehensive solution that resolves the quality and licensure issues for physician-owned clinics.

For these reasons, I am not able to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger